

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application in the Office Action dated April 4, 2006. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 17 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are amended. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 18 are canceled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 19, and 20 were previously canceled. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim Objections

In response to the Examiner's objection, claim 7 has been canceled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicants have amended claim 11 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-13, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneki et al. (U.S. 6,568,402) in view of Aronoff et al. (U.S. 5,107,866). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the Examiner's rejection but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. Thus, independent claim 1 recites *inter alia*

wherein the adhesive region has a plurality of adhesive-applied parts arranged at intervals in an axial direction of the filter element, and

wherein the adhesive-applied parts constitute a continuous loop pattern having loops arranged in a longitudinal direction of the wrapping paper, as viewed in development of the wrapping paper.

In a similar manner, independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 12 and 13. Thus, independent claim 11 recites *inter alia*

wherein the adhesive region has a plurality of adhesive-applied parts arranged at intervals in an axial direction of the filter element, and

wherein the adhesive-applied parts constitute a continuous loop pattern having loops arranged in a longitudinal direction of the wrapping paper, as viewed in development of the wrapping paper.

In the rejection, the Examiner combines Kaneki et al. and Aronoff et al., and asserts that Aronoff et al. discloses a loop pattern. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

In contrast to the present invention, as can be seen in Aronoff et al. FIG. 3, this document merely discloses a cross section (thickness) of the wrap paper 11. Namely, reference numeral 18 in FIG. 3 indicates pores of the wrap paper 11. The pores 18 extend from the inner surface 12 to the outer surface 13 of the wrap paper 11 while following roundabout routes.

The configuration if the pores 18 is not a continuous loop pattern continuous in the longitudinal direction of the wrapping paper. Thus, it is clear that the pores 18 disclosed in the Aronoff et al. document fail to teach or suggest “loops” of the present invention.

At least for the reasons described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claim 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kaneki et al. and Aronoff et al.

Therefore, claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Further, dependent claims 6, 16, and 17 are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel limitations set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

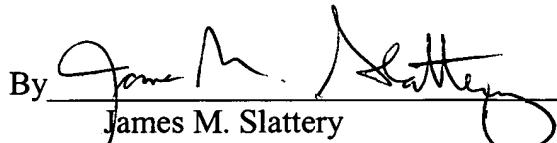
Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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